Objective

The objective of the Brainstorm Awards is to foster interdisciplinary collaborations encompassing novel, hypothesis-driven studies of cancer or a cancer-related topic. The proposed project must be a joint, collaborative effort by at least two Cancer Center members from different programs or different disciplines, and must represent a new collaborative proposal. The Masonic Cancer Center is especially interested in Brainstorm Award applications that are focused on projects relevant to solid tumor oncology with translational potential. Projects that meet these criteria will be prioritized for funding, although it is not a prerequisite for application submission.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

- These pilot grants are available to Masonic Cancer Center members with faculty appointments at the University of Minnesota.

- The proposed project must be a joint, collaborative effort by at least two Cancer Center members from different programs or different disciplines, and must represent a new collaborative proposal.

- Applications will not be considered from two investigators who have a long-standing track record of collaborative accomplishment, based on federal grant support or co-authored publications. Brainstorm Awards are not meant to supplement currently funded research projects. Members may only submit one application to this mechanism.

- Applications must have a cancer or cancer-related theme.

- Proposed research must be hypothesis-driven and have the goal of using the award as a springboard to obtaining long-term support from federal/external sources.

- The funds must be designated for the direct support of research. In general, funds should be used for supplies and support of research personnel (graduate students or technicians). Funds cannot be used to support faculty salaries. Only equipment purchases that are directly required for the research are appropriate. No indirect costs should be included in the budget.

- All applicants are required to have proper approvals (IRB/IACUC/IBC) before research may begin. Applicants are highly encouraged to apply for proper approvals at or prior to the time of submission. This will ensure that the study is approved by the start date of the award.

Mechanism Funding Information

Applications with budgets of $50,000 for a one year term will be considered.

Up to 2 awards will be made depending upon scientific review and budget requests.

Review Process

Each mechanism has an internally-selected committee that will review applications. The committee will make recommendations for funding to the Mechanism Lead. De-identified, written reviews/critiques will be sent upon request.

Applicants will be notified of the review outcome by mid-June 2017. Awards will be made for one year, with an anticipated activation date of July 1, 2017.

Reporting Requirements
Principal investigators of funded projects will be required to provide mid-year and final reports that include accounting of all funds expended to date and progress towards milestones. Reports are to be submitted to the Mechanism Lead and the Funding Initiatives Manager. It is expected that all funds will be expended by June 30, 2018, with extensions being considered only in exceptional cases and requiring the approval of the Mechanism Lead.

Academic Health Center (AHC), MCC and CSH communications staff may reach out to awardees in the process of crafting communications (publications, website, flyers, etc.) for external audiences.

During a period of up to 7 years following the end of the pilot award, if any grants or publications are obtained as a result of this pilot funding, awardees are required to submit this information to the Funding Initiatives Manager.

Grant Program Contacts

All questions related to the application process, requirements, or eligibility should be directed to:

Susan Fautsch, CETI/Funding Initiatives Manager
612-625-6238
mccgrant@umn.edu

Any questions regarding the applicability of research should be directed to:

Reuben Harris, PhD
rsh@umn.edu